



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR
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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY
GARY W. KENDALL, DIRECTOR

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Iowa DARE Students Honored for Positive Choices

Iowa's newest class of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) students was recognized at an Iowa DARE Day ceremony Thursday by Iowa's Drug Policy Coordinator.

"Making healthy decisions that include remaining drug-free is all about choices," said Gary Kendall, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy. "Congratulations to this year's Iowa DARE students for learning how to make positive choices, by resisting drugs."

During a ceremony with DARE students, instructors and other officials at Roland-Story Middle School, Kendall presented an Iowa DARE Day proclamation from Governor Culver.

"Iowa has one of the nation's lowest rates of illegal drug use by youth, thanks in part to the teachings of educators and DARE officers, and lessons learned by students," said Kendall. "This important work must continue, especially in the wake of a recent national study that indicates youth drug use is beginning to increase again."

DARE is a national youth drug prevention program, in which law enforcement officers help students build self esteem, manage stress, evaluate risk-taking behavior, resist negative peer and gang pressures, and apply decision making skills without resorting to drug use. It is one of several youth drug prevention programs offered in Iowa.

This year more than 25,000 Iowa students, in grades K-12, will receive DARE lessons that include an interactive science-based curriculum enhanced as part of a national research project.